

Listing of Claims

Please amend claims 3 and 5 as shown below. Please cancel claims 1-2, and 6-13.

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions of claims and listings of claims in the application:

1-2. cancelled.

3. (currently amended) In a pressurized vessel including a bearing, the bearing disposed interior to the vessel, the bearing comprising a rolling element and a seal, an improvement comprising a hole in the seal for allowing the bearing internal pressure to equalize with the vessel pressure, ~~a~~^{An} improvement according to claim 1, further comprising a gas-permeable membrane substantially covering the hole in the seal.

4. (previously presented) An improvement according to claim 3, wherein the hole in the seal is greater than .06 inches in diameter.

5. (currently amended) A method for minimizing a pressure differential between the interior of a bearing and the exterior of the bearing in a pressurized vessel, the method comprising:

a. providing the pressurized vessel including a bearing disposed therein, the bearing including a rolling element and a seal; and

b. making a hole in the seal; ~~and~~

c. covering the hole in the seal with a gas-permeable membrane.

6-13. cancelled.

14. (original) In a bearing for use in a pressurized vessel, the bearing including a rolling element, a lubricant and a seal, an improvement comprising a hole in the seal and a gas-permeable membrane substantially covering the hole in the seal for allowing the bearing internal pressure to equalize with the vessel pressure.

15. (original) A bearing according to claim 14, wherein the hole in the seal is greater than .06 inches in diameter.

16. (original) A method for minimizing a pressure differential between the interior of a bearing and the exterior of the bearing, the method comprising:

- a. providing the bearing for use in a pressurized vessel, the bearing including a rolling element, a lubricant and a seal;
- b. making a hole in the seal; and
- c. covering the hole in the seal with a gas-permeable membrane.